

SENATE BILL 2534

By Tracy

AN ACT to name the pumper/operations building at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County in honor of Lewis H. Baker.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those firefighters who have served this State with the greatest acumen and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Lewis H. Baker served the citizens of Tennessee for nearly five decades as a firefighter and fire chief and over thirty-five years as an instructor for the State Fire School for the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker first served as a firefighter for the city of Collierville and was subsequently promoted to fire chief; he served as an instructor at the State Fire School from the early 1960's until it closed in 2001; and

WHEREAS, during his nearly five decades of service, Mr. Baker shared his expertise by training thousands of young firefighters in all aspects of firefighting, including basic firefighting, live firefighting, instructor, officer, smoke divers, hydraulics, rescue, and aerial operations, but he was most renowned for his pumper/operations classes; and

WHEREAS, many cities, including Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville, still utilize Mr. Baker's procedures and formulas in their fire departments; his expertise in department and training programs has been shared all over the United States, as well as Canada; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker's unique ability to reach students from all walks of life and at all levels of education was phenomenal; by utilizing his training practices, he could make any student efficient in the classes he taught; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker assisted many communities in planning the location of their fire stations, ordering fire gear and fire apparatus, and helping with training programs and also with SCBA equipment; and

WHEREAS, his fellow firefighters trusted his knack for getting the best and most dependable products for their needs; thousands of ranking officers in the fire service in the Southeast, as well as across the nation, were mentored and owe much of their success to Mr. Baker; and

WHEREAS, thousands of lives have been saved through the expertise and training efforts of one of Tennessee's most distinguished professional firefighters: Lewis H. Baker; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the pumper/operations building at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County is hereby named in honor of Lewis H. Baker as a lasting tribute to one of Tennessee's most finest and most famous firefighters.

SECTION 2. The state fire marshal is directed to erect or affix suitable signs designating the pumper/operations building at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County as the "Lewis H. Baker Building".

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the state fire marshal from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state fire marshal for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The state fire marshal shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the state fire marshal in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the state fire marshal.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.